

IN THE CLAIMS

The current claims follow. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1. (Currently Amended) For use in a base station, an apparatus for sending and receiving an acknowledgment message, comprising:

a channel controller capable of assigning a common control channel to a mobile station, said common control channel having a forward control channel and a reverse control channel, wherein said channel controller is capable of dedicating said forward control channel and said reverse ~~common~~ control channel to said mobile station for a predetermined period of time; and

a transceiver coupled to said channel controller capable of transmitting and receiving said acknowledgment message on said common control channel.

2. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said base station is capable of broadcasting a paging message to said mobile station.

3. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said paging message comprises identification of said common control channel.

4. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said base station further comprises a timer associated with said channel controller for regulating the time that said common control channel is available for said mobile station.

5. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 4 wherein said base station is capable of assigning said common control channel to said mobile station for receiving at least one message from said mobile station.

6. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said paging message provides limits for said time period for receiving said acknowledgment message from said mobile station.

7. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said paging message comprises a forward channel message including fields for identifying said forward channel message as a reliable ACK message specifying a dedicated common control channel address and identity.

8. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication network comprising:
a plurality of base stations capable of communicating with a plurality of mobile stations disposed in a coverage area of said plurality of base stations; and
an apparatus associated with at least one of said plurality of base stations comprising for sending and receiving an acknowledgment message comprising:

a channel controller capable of assigning a common control channel to a mobile station, said common control channel having a forward control channel and a reverse control channel, wherein said channel controller is capable of dedicating said forward control channel and said reverse ~~common~~ control channel to said mobile station for a predetermined period of time; and

a transceiver coupled to said channel controller capable of transmitting and receiving said acknowledgment message on said common control channel.

9. (Original) The wireless communication network as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said base station is capable of broadcasting a paging message to said mobile station.

10. (Original) The wireless communication network as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said paging message comprises identification of said common control channel.

11. (Original) The wireless communication network as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said base station further comprises a timer associated with said channel controller for regulating the time that said common control channel is available for said mobile station.

12. (Original) The wireless communication network as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said base station is capable of assigning said common control channel to said mobile station for receiving

at least one message from said mobile station.

13. (Original) The wireless communication network as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said paging message provides limits for said time period for receiving said acknowledgment message from said mobile station.

14. (Original) The wireless communication network as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said paging message comprises a forward channel message including fields for identifying said forward channel message as a reliable ACK message specifying a dedicated common control channel address and identity.

15. (Currently Amended) For use in a base station, a method for sending and receiving an acknowledgment message comprising the steps of:

assigning a common control channel having a forward control channel and a reverse control channel to a mobile station, wherein said forward ~~common~~ control channel and said reverse control channel are is dedicated to said mobile station for a predetermined period of time;

transmitting a paging message to said mobile station, said paging message operable to cause said mobile station to transmit and receive on said common control channel during said predetermined period of time; and

receiving said acknowledgment message from said mobile station on said common control

channel.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said paging message comprises identification of said common control channel.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 16 further comprising the step of regulating the time that said common control channel is available for use by said mobile station.

18. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising the step of assigning said common control channel to said mobile station for receiving at least one message from said mobile station.

19. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising the steps of providing limits for said time period for receiving said acknowledgment message from said mobile station.

20. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 19 wherein said paging message comprises a forward channel message including fields for identifying said forward channel message as a reliable ACK message specifying a dedicated common control channel address and identity.